

Claims

1. A system for managing electric and fuel cell vehicles in a fleet comprising:

a plurality of vehicles, each vehicle having a sensor measuring remaining electrical energy available from electrical cells or fuel cells as a first data item, a GPS sensor measuring vehicle position as a second data item and a first communications device transmitting the first and second data items, and

a computer having a task input means, a second communications device receiving the first and second data items and a data base associated with a means for predicting vehicle range from the first data item, the computer linking task inputs with predicted vehicle range and the second data item.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the computer is remote from at least one of the vehicles.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the computer is aboard at least one of the vehicles.

4. A management system for a vehicle drawing power from batteries or fuel cells comprising:

an electrical energy sensor mounted in a vehicle reporting remaining energy in batteries or fuel cells as a first data item,

a GPS sensor mounted in the vehicle reporting vehicle position as a second data item,

a task request input means within the vehicle for receiving requests for vehicle dispatch,

a computer connected for receiving the first and second data items and connected to receive the requests for vehicle dispatch, the computer having means for predicting vehicle range from the first data item, the computer linking task request inputs with predicted vehicle range and the second data item.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the computer is remote from the vehicle.

6. The system of claim 4 wherein the computer is aboard the vehicle.

7. The system of claim 5 wherein the computer is linked to the vehicle by radio communications.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein the computer is linked to the vehicle by internet communications.

9. The system of claim 5 wherein the computer is in communication with a plurality of vehicles.

10. The system of claim 4 wherein a load input means is connected to the computer for influencing the predicted range with load information.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein the radio communications system is a cellular radio system.

12. A management system for a vehicle drawing power from batteries or fuel cells comprising:

- an electrical energy sensor mounted in a vehicle reporting remaining energy in batteries or fuel cells as a first data item,

- a GPS sensor mounted in the vehicle reporting vehicle position as a second data item,

- a task request input means within the vehicle for receiving requests for vehicle dispatch and generating a corresponding electrical signal,

- a load input means within the vehicle for generating an electrical signal representative of vehicle load,

- a computer connected for receiving the first and second data items, the electrical signal corresponding to a task request and the electrical signal representative of vehicle load, the computer having means for predicting vehicle range from the first data item, the computer linking task request inputs with predicted vehicle range, vehicle load and the second data item.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the computer is remote from the vehicle.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the computer is aboard the vehicle.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein the computer is linked to the vehicle by radio communications.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the computer is linked to the vehicle by internet communications.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein the computer is in communication with a plurality of vehicles.